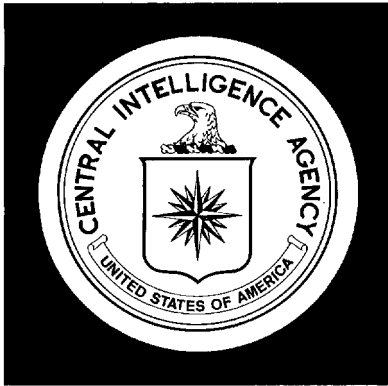


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**LEBANON-FEDAYEEN:** The army continues to consolidate its control. There were some exchanges of fire yesterday in the southeast near the Syrian border but, in general, the scale of fighting appears to be gradually tapering off.

President Franjiyah apparently believes the army's performance enables him to be tough with the guerrillas.

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The fedayeen, whose base of operations is limited to Lebanon and Syria, will seek the intervention of other Arab states in resisting Franjiyah's attempts to constrain further their freedom of action. There has apparently been no strong Arab pressure on Beirut thus far, and this will encourage the Lebanese to maintain their hard line.

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FOR THE RECORD\*

International Monetary Developments: The dollar continued its decline against most major currencies in light trading yesterday. The price of gold continued its rapid rise, closing near \$95 an ounce.

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Africa: Virtually all of Africa's finance ministers are meeting this week in the Ivory Coast, seeking a unified position on association with the EC for the summit meeting of the OAU opening on 24 May.

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*\*These items are prepared overnight by CIA without coordination.*

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